

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 04452 311903Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-04 CEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 /096 W
-----010126Z 009252 /73

R 311829Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3616
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS (BY POUCH)

UNCLAS OTTAWA 04452

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, CA
SUBJECT: GOC DISCUSSION PAPER ON DECONTROLS

1. FINMIN MACDONALD TABLED IN PARLIAMENT ON MAY 27
"DISCUSSION PAPER" ON DECONTROLS AND POST-CONTROL ISSUES
ENTITLED "AGENDA FOR COOPERATION." PAPER GIVES NO
SPECIFIC DATE FOR ENDING CONTROLS BUT STATES "CONSIDERA-
TION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ANNOUNCING
A DECISION ON DECONTROL TIMING BY MID-SUMMER" (1977).

2. PAPER PROPOSES ESTABLISHMENT OF "NEW CONSULTATIVE
FORUM" IN POST-CONTROL PERIOD. FORUM ENVISAGED WOULD
BE "MULTIPARTITE ASSEMBLY OF BETWEEN 30 TO 50 INDIVIDUALS
...CHOSEN TO REFLECT THE VIEWS OF BUSINESS, LABOR,
FARMERS, FISHERMEN, CONSUMERS, PROFESSIONS AND PERHAPS
OTHER GROUPS." FORUM WOULD NOT HAVE DECISION-MAKING
POWERS. IN ADDITION TO FORUM, PAPER ALSO PROPOSES
ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENCY TO MONITOR WAGE AND PRICE
DEVELOPMENTS AFTER CONTROLS ARE LIFTED.

3. ACCORDING TO PAPER, BEST APPROACH TO DECONTROL WAS
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OUTLINED IN MARCH 31 FEDERAL BUDGET; I.E. GROUPS WOULD
BE RELEASED FROM CONTROLS AS THEY REACH ANNIVERSARY DATE
ON WHICH THEY FIRST BECOME SUBJECT TO CONTROLS.

4. PAPER MAKES STRONG PITCH FOR CONTINUING BATTLE
AGAINST INFLATION, AND MAJORITY OF PAPER DISCUSSES
AREAS OF ECONOMY WHERE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT AND "CANADIAN COMMUNITY" COULD IMPROVE UNDER-
STANDING OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS; E.G., INFLATION,
PRODUCTIVITY, COMPETITION, REGIONAL DISPARITIES,
UNEMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL SECURITY, HOUSING, ENERGY, LABOR-
MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC SECTOR COMPENSATION.

5. COMMENT: PAPER IS LARGELY EXHORATORY IN NATURE,
URGING CANADIANS TO WORK TOGETHER TO FIGHT INFLATION AND
TO IMPROVE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY. PAPER CONTENDS
THAT DECISION ON DECONTROLS TIMING AND POST-CONTROL
FOLLOW-UP WILL BE "INFLUENCED" BY DIALOGUE AND RESPONSES
GENERATED BY PAPER. HOWEVER, IN FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL DETERMINE HOW AND WHEN TO
END CONTROLS, AND EMBASSY DOES NOT LOOK FOR CONTROLS
TERMINATING BEFORE OCTOBER 1977, WITH CERTAIN SECTORS OF
THE ECONOMY STILL SUBJECT TO CONTROLS INTO 1978. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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